

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1451

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FOR EA AMBASSADOR GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: NEWS SUMMARY MONDAY, AUGUST 6

WEEKEND PAPERS LARGELY PREOCCUPIED WITH RISE IN MEDICAL
FEES AND BUDGET PREDICTIONS.

SATURDAY'S AGE CARRIED BARNES SUMMARY OF WHITLAM VISIT
TO US HEADED "A CASE OF REBUILDING BRIDGES WITHOUT SHIFTING
GROUND. WHITLAM CONTENT: A JOB WELL DONE IN WASHINGTON."
BARNES SAID PM BELIEVED HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ASSERTING
AND EXPLAINING THE MORE INDEPENDENT AND DIVERSIFIED STANCE OF
THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IN
REMOVING ANY LINGERING STRAINS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

STATE DEPARTMENT PROMOTED TOUR, SAID BARNES, CITING USE OF
ANDREWS FIELD AIR BASE, GREEN ASSISTANCE IN INTRODUCING PM,
UNSCHEDULED ROGERS DISCUSSION, EXTENSION OF NIXON DISCUSSION
AND SENATE MEETING.

HE SAID PM ASSURED BY PLIMSOLL AND GREEN THAT PRELIMINARY
NEGOTIATIONS ON N.W. CAPE PROGRESSING WELL SO AGREED TO
LEAVE TOUGH TALKING TO BARNARD LATE THIS YEAR.

MONDAY'S AGE EDITORIAL HEADED "JAPAN RECEIVES HON. KOWTOW"

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LISTED US-JAPANESE PROBLEMS AND SAID TANAKA OBTAINED REAL

CONCESSIONS FROM NIXON INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP OF SECURITY COUNCIL. EDIT. CONCLUDED:
" MR NIXON'S KOWTOWING TO JAPAN WILL RAISE CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION AMONG NATIONS WHICH ALREADY REGARD THE VETO AS ONE OF THE GREATEST WEAKNESSES IN THE STRUCTION OF THE WORLD PARLIAMENT".

MOST MONDAY PAPERS CARRIED REPORT OF LEE KUAN YEW CRITICISM OF AUSTRALIAN POLICIES AT OTTAWA CONFERENCE.

THE AUSTRALIAN FRONT PAGED ALAN RANSEY REPORT HEADED "PM CLASHES WITH LEE" SAYING LEE WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF ANY ATTEMPTS BY AUSTRALIA TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE TO THE SECURITY OF S.E.ASIA OF THE SEATO TREATY.

MELBOURNE SUN CORRESPONDENT LAURIE OAKES REPORTED FROM OTTAWA THAT LEE HAD GIVEN THE MOST ABRASIVE SPEECH SO FAR AT THE CONFERENCE. HE SAID LEE CRITICISED BRITAIN FOR PRICE IT CHARGED SINGAPORE FOR RECONDITIONED FIGHTER PLANES AND FOR SOME OF ITS COMMON MARKET POLICIES. HE DISMISSED SRI LANKAN PLAN FOR A NEUTRAL ZONE IN INDIAN OCEAN, ACCUSED FIJI OF SEARCHING FOR SHANGRI-LA IN FOREIGN POLICIES, TORPEDOED NEW ZEALAND CONDEMNATION OF FRANCE AND CRITICISED AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION POLICIES AIMED AT ATTRACTING ONLY SKILLED ASIANS. HE ALSO CRITICISED AUSTRALIAN GIFT OF SABRES TO INDONESIA SAYING IT FORCED SINGAPORE TO BUT USED HUNTERS FROM BRITAIN.

"WATERGATE" RECEIVED COVERAGE ON INSIDE PAGES, WITH HALDEMAN AND HELMS TESTIMONY FEATURED ON SATURDAY.

CANBERRA TIMES LEAD "NO LEGAL AID TO OBTAIN TAPES."

AUSTRALIAN LEAD "GRAY ADMITS HE LIED ABOUT SECRET PAPERS."

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD "SEARCH FOR MCGOVERN BIRTH DOCUMENT".
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